

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1865, December 18, 1954

## MEET THE PUNCH AND JUDY BOY

**Young entertainer who makes thousands of children laugh**

ONE of the youngest exponents of Punch and Judy, 15-year-old Brian Clarke of Forest Gate, London, is looking forward to a busy season entertaining children in hospitals and homes, as well as at private parties.

As may be expected, writes CN correspondent Edward Lanchbery, his interest in Punch and Judy started in childhood holidays at the seaside. If ever Brian were missing, his parents knew exactly where to find him. These ancient but ever-popular puppets seemed to exert more than a usual fascination for the boy, and he never tired of watching their antics.

Since his sixth birthday, when he was given three small puppets by his father, his Punch and Judy hobby has never waned at all. By the age of nine, Brian was making and manipulating his own family of Punch and Judy puppets.

He never intended it to be more than a hobby to amuse himself and his small sister, but one day his father, who is interested in child welfare, said, "Brian, why not bring your Punch and Judy things along to this party for backward children that I am visiting this afternoon?"

### CHARITY PERFORMANCES

That was the beginning. His success at the party led to other engagements both for charity, for which he gladly gives his services, and at private parties, which have brought him enough pocket money to buy an amplifying set for use in large halls.

It is a point of honour with Brian, however, that he still makes all his own puppets and other equipment. He models the faces in a plasticine mould, and into this puts half a dozen layers of wet papier-mâché. This is left for a day or two until it is dry, and when the mould is removed there is the face ready for painting.

Several coats of paint are usually necessary before the puppet is ready for its wig and clothes, also made by Brian from any odd pieces of material he can find in his mother's workbox.

### TV APPEARANCE

To date, his most exciting experience was last year when he appeared on television in All Your Own. That was just before the Coronation and led to requests from all over the country for him to do shows. But he had to decline all of them. As it was he did six performances of one hour each in different street parties on Coronation Day.

Brian has had, of course, his embarrassing moments. If one thing goes wrong, he says, everything goes wrong. There was the time, for instance, when he was to give a show in a large hall where he knew he needed a microphone. When the amplifying system was rigged up a fault occurred in the

amplifier and could not be put right.

Perhaps Brian was straining too hard to make his voice carry to the back rows, because suddenly Punch stopped speaking, and from the curtains behind came an anguished shout of "Dad!"

Mr. Clarke, who was watching from the wings, hurried to him. Brian had swallowed the swizzle—the little mouth whistle which is used for Punch's voice.

For three years now Brian has given performances at the annual exhibition of the British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild in London. It would have to be in front of that audience, including famous puppet manipulators and Punch and Judy exponents, that Brian mixed up his puppets!

### PUPPETS IN LINE

In his own booth—made at home with the help of his father—the puppets are lined up in front of him on hooks under the stage. The booth at the exhibition, however, had the puppet hooks along one side so that he had to keep turning to reach them.

Suddenly he discovered that although Punch was arguing with Judy, and Judy was answering him back, it was Joey the clown instead of Judy whom he was manipulating on his hand.

The professional Punch and Judy men were sympathetic. "That's nothing to worry about, Brian," they said. "There is not a man among us who has not mixed up his puppets more than once."

Brian, who is now at the North West Ham Technical College studying commercial art, has devised something new in end-of-term concerts. With ten other pupils taking part as manipulators, he is presenting a puppet version of Dickens's "A Christmas Carol." All the characters and the stage are, of course, being made by Brian and his helpers.

But it will be Punch again who is in demand during the Christmas holidays; and there is no doubt which of the many varied engagements is going to give Brian personally the greatest satisfaction.

It will be yet another visit to some spastic children. For as they

Continued at foot of next column



## WHERE IT IS TOO COLD TO GO TO SCHOOL

Cold weather in Britain makes everyone shiver, but how would you like to live in one of the coldest places known to geographers, where a temperature of 88.2 deg. below freezing point Fahrenheit was recorded not long ago.

It is the little town of Verkhoyansk, just north of the Arctic Circle in the middle of north-eastern Siberia, where it is so bitterly cold that icicles have some-

times formed on the eyelashes of people rash enough to venture out of doors, according to Mr. Ernest W. Smith who saw this happen.

Few except trappers venture out in winter, but this does not stop them from visiting each other. Their small wooden houses are linked by corridors.

It is useless, too, for the boys and girls to say it is too cold to go to school, for school can be reached by long covered passages from the houses.

In summer the weather is pleasantly warm, but the summer is very brief. While it lasts aircraft fly supplies to the town from Irkutsk, about 2500 miles away, bringing vitamin pills, and fresh fruit to prevent scurvy.

Another very cold village in Siberia is Oimyakon. There, when temperatures begin to drop rapidly, an alarm hooter is

sounded and parents keep their children indoors. When a second hooter sounds all school lessons are cancelled and children stay in bed, for there are no covered ways through which they can walk to school as in Verkhoyansk.

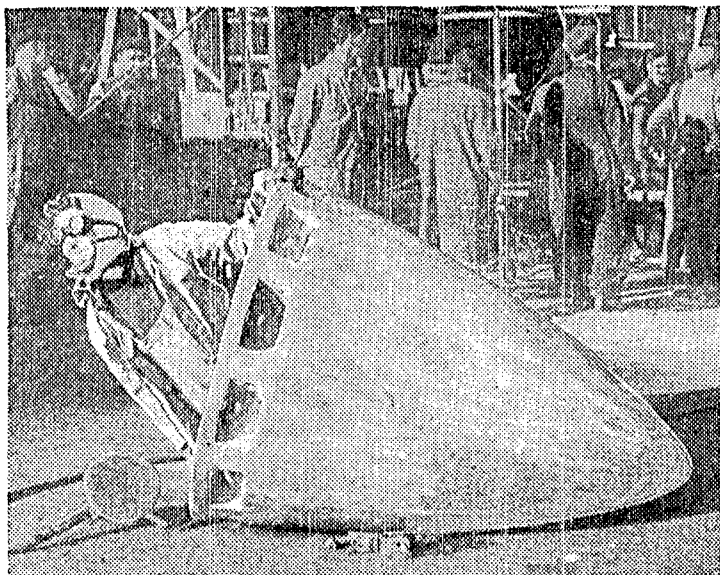
Why is it so cold in Oimyakon? Because this little mining settlement is 2500 to 3000 feet above sea level. It is about 200 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

### THEATRE BURNS KNEW

Theatre enthusiasts in Dumfries are banding together to save the town's 18th-century Theatre Royal from destruction. Used in recent years as a cinema, it has now closed its doors and is up for sale.

Robert Burns was a frequent first-nighter there, and many famous English actors have appeared on its stage.





### Like a visitor from space

Looking like a survivor from a wrecked space-ship, an apprentice fitter at Southampton is giving final touches to the huge cone of one of the propellers of the liner *Mauretania* during a winter overhaul.

## TRACTORS FOR THE STONE AGE MEN

**M**EN of the Stone Age are learning to use tractors and other modern methods of farming in Dutch New Guinea.

They belong to the "Lost Tribes" recently discovered in the dense forests of the great Pacific island as previously reported in C.N. Now comes news, through a C.N. correspondent, that in the Dutch part of New Guinea, at Nimboran, the authorities are training some of these "lost tribes" to be farmers in the modern manner.

Having never known anything better than their own implements, the stone hoe and adze, the tall, handsome men of Nimboran have suddenly been introduced to the jeep and the tractor. Under their vast mops of fuzzy hair they gaze in silent wonder at the machines and the white men who drive them.

It is twenty-four miles by jeep trail to the nearest township of Hollandia, and one of the tasks of the primitive men was to make a road so that the tractor could reach them and begin work.

The aim of the Nimboran plan is to teach the "lost tribe" people the simple ideas of good farming, including rotation of crops, manuring and tilling, instead of just scratching a few feet of earth among the grass and hoping for the best. The Nimboran men are learning that crops can be coaxed to grow.

### BARTERING A BASKET

A small buying centre has been set up where the primitive handicrafts in baskets and rattan ware can be sold to a co-operative society which will market them in the township and even as far away as Australia. A big, broad New Guinea man with thick hair and high cheek bones comes in with a neatly woven basket which, for the first time in his life, he has made not for himself but for someone else. He hands it over in exchange for a leather belt, or a blanket, or a length of rope.

Nearly all the farming in the open hundred acres rescued from the jungle is done co-operatively, though the "lost tribe" man learns only very slowly about doing things in a team.

The Nimboran experiment now has eight hundred members and all share exactly alike. Even the two men in the primitive store do not earn a wage, but share like the farmers in the year's profit share-out.

The Nimboran men are making the transition from Stone Age to Machine Age in easy stages.

### OUR FRIEND JENNINGS



Will be in the C.N. again next week, and with him, of course, will be . . .



the ever-faithful Darbshire

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By the C.N. Press Gallery Correspondent

**OUR** M.P.s approach the Christmas recess feeling that it might be the last of this Parliament—the last *Christmas* recess, that is, for there is quite a lot for Parliament to do in the coming year.

The session opened by the Queen on November 30, coinciding with Sir Winston Churchill's eightieth birthday, is now well under way and its great landmarks are likely to be the Defence White Paper in February and the Budget in April.

**SIR DAVID ECCLES**, the new Minister of Education, has established himself as a Man of the Session by promising a complete re-organisation of schools in rural areas. The last school in this plan must be started not later than January 1, 1960.

At the same time the limit of money which can be spent on improvements to schools in town and country will be raised from £7500 to £10,000 a job.

The Minister is also giving a spurt to the building of technical colleges. The amount of new work for technical education which can now be started is being increased by the substantial figure of £2,500,000 a year.

**AS** the year draws to its close we are reminded of the strenuous efforts made this past year to build up Western Europe's defences.

Wars have been caused in the past often because peace-loving nations were weak. Now our statesmen are trying the policy of peace - through - strength. The Government attach the highest importance to Anglo-American friendship, as the Queen's Speech showed, believing world survival to depend upon "this intimate association."

Earl Jowitt, Leader of the Opposition in the Lords, has reminded us why Germany has had to be re-armed although, at the Tehran conference before the war ended, both British and Russian Prime Ministers considered Germany should be kept unarmed for at least fifty years.

Said Lord Jowitt: "They considered that essential and that anything else would be a breach of our duty towards our Army and the gallant men who had fought for us."

"What has changed all that, which was the common policy of everybody in this country?"

"It is worth observing that what has changed it is the Russian policy. It was the Russian policy with regard to Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, and, after that, Czechoslovakia: the fact that we found Russia had immense armaments at a time when she had no potential antagonist, and the fact that we realised that Russia had no understanding of our attachments to liberty."

## News from Everywhere

### ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

An "adventure playground" equipped with old steam rollers and cars and ships' lifeboats is contemplated for a bombed site in Hull.

Beautiful specimens of coral and shells presented to the Queen during the Royal Tour are now on view at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington.

Princess Alexandra has become, President of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Extensions costing £6,000,000 are to be made to University College, London. When completed, London will have the largest single group of university buildings in Europe.

### MORE SAVERS

School savings groups now have 2,009,000 members. The number of school savings groups is now 27,250.

Calcutta is to have its first skyscraper, a 22-storey air-conditioned building. It has been designed by Maxwell Fry, the famous British architect.

The Glasgow Municipal Transport Committee have been discussing a new underground railway system. In parts it would cost £4,000,000 a mile.

Britain's postmen are to be provided with fawn cotton jackets for summer wear.

An Exmoor pony presented as a yearling to Princess Anne has now been fully trained and transferred to Sandringham.

The figurehead of a barque which plied between Russia and Kirkcaldy 100 years ago has been found buried in a garden at Fife.

### FISH AND SEAWEED SAUSAGES

Experts in Australia are trying to produce a fish "sausage" with a skin of seaweed.

Australia is planning a television service.

The famous 500-year-old Bazaar of Istanbul has been destroyed by fire. In six hours the flames destroyed 10,000 shops.

The average failure rate of first-year degree university students has dropped from 16 per cent in pre-war years to under ten per cent.

### CHURCHILL MUSEUM

Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's home at Westerham in Kent, is to be endowed as a Churchill museum.

Work on Britain's first underground gas holder is likely to begin soon on the north bank of the Tees near Billingham.

We regret that owing to a printer's error, Ann Tilbury of Woking was credited with being the first person to win 2 Children's Hour competitions. The correct figure is 20.





### Camp-fire cooking

Boy Scouts on the new camping site at Banstead, Surrey. This picture was taken by a CN reader, Patrol Leader D. Anthony Spencer.

### INFLATABLE DINGHY OF 1848

The Institution of Naval Architects has just completed a catalogue of literature, dealing with shipping and shipbuilding from the 16th century onwards, contained in the famous "Scott Collection."

The collection includes a book published in 1848 which describes an "inflatable boat of macintosh india-rubber cloth, with paddle, umbrella sail, bellows, etc."—the forerunner of the modern inflatable dinghy.

Another book, of 1737, mentions "a machine for carrying ships against wind or tide, or in a calm"—over 60 years before the first practical steamboat was built.

The Scott Collection was founded by the chairman of the famous Greenock shipbuilding firm, Scotts Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd. The books are in many languages, and are housed in a special room at the I.N.A. headquarters in London.

### CATHEDRAL OF SALT

Work will be completed early in the New Year on a cathedral which is being carved from the salt walls of the ancient Zipaquira salt mines 40 miles north of Bogota, Colombia, South America. The miners will worship there.

This huge cathedral of rock-salt will be almost as big as Notre Dame in Paris. The nave and two aisles are nearly 400 feet long. In addition to the main altar, there will be ten auxiliary altars.

A great cross, the ceilings, walls, and pillars—all will be of salt. Clay tiles are being used to pave the floors.

The salt mines are nationally-owned. They were old when the Spaniards arrived in Colombia in the 16th century, having been worked before that by the Chibcha Indians.

### MOANING MONSTER

A 90-foot sea monster with the body of an ox and head of an ostrich has been reported off the South African coast by the crew of a fishing vessel.

They said that the monster had huge bulging eyes which glared fiercely at them, four horns on its head, and a balloon-shaped body. Before they turned their boat and fled, the fishermen heard strange moaning noises from the monster.

### THE UNSUNG DOG OF BALACLAVA

Tennyson's famous poem, The Charge of the Light Brigade, has no mention of Jimmy, a rough-coated terrier which intrepidly charged the enemy artillery with the gallant 600 men.

But his worn and tattered collar occupied a proud place beside the gleaming regimental silver at the centenary ball held to celebrate the epic feat at Balacava.

Jimmy belonged to a soldier of the 8th Hussars, and when the regiment was ordered to charge he refused to be parted from his master and followed in his wake, returning unscathed with the remnants of the gallant band at the end of the action.

The dog later accompanied the regiment to India where he lived through most of the Indian Mutiny. A soldier's life, however, is full of hazards and when Jimmy was accidentally drowned in the Gumpi River a few years later he was accorded an honoured place in the annals of the regiment.

### Made on a typewriter



This Christmas card was typewritten by an American invalid confined to her wheel-chair.

### FLYING CAT

A familiar figure at Cloncurry Airport, Queensland, is an old tom-cat, Marmalade. He frequently takes unauthorised air trips to Mount Isa, 55 miles away, spending the night there and flying back to Cloncurry next day.



### Pantomime crocodile

Two charming workers at Pantomime House, Manchester, inspect the realistic "property" crocodile which will appear in pantomimes this season.

### WRECKED ON HIS FIRST VOYAGE

After his miraculous escape from the cargo liner Tresillian, which foundered off the South Irish coast recently, George Hepburn of Edinburgh considers himself the luckiest boy in Britain.

George, who is 16, was making his first voyage. He was one of 12 members of the crew brought to Cork Harbour, where the first thing he did was to telephone his parents in Edinburgh to tell them that he was safe.

He and John Pay, also aged 16, of Bexhill, Sussex, both leaped into the mountainous seas and swam towards a lifebelt. George reached it and hung on grimly. He did not see John again until a lifeboat pulled him out of the sea, and found John already in the lifeboat.

### SECRET OF THE CAVES

A wonderful series of caves with stalagmites and stalactites has recently been discovered about 20 miles from Outjo in South-West Africa. There are also Bushman paintings which will throw new light on the art of these little-known people.

Known as Mooihock (Lovely Corner) Caves, they are in one of the remotest parts of the territory and were found accidentally by an African. There are two vertical entrances and one horizontal. When the sun is high the interior is well lit and some of the stalagmites are seen to be as thick as a big tree trunk.

Scientists from Pretoria are to visit the caves early next year.

### TEN-STOREY FLATS FOR LEEDS

The City of Leeds, already famous for its Quarry Hill Flats, one of the largest blocks in Europe, is to have more mammoth flats.

A seven-block scheme, comprising 448 flats, is to be begun early in 1955 at a cost of £943,368, and will take three years to complete. The blocks will be up to ten storeys in height and will accommodate about 1400 people. Every flat will have a living-room with a balcony facing west.

### NOAH CALLING

"For Shem, Ham, and Japheth from Noah. Well done." That was the strange message received the other day by Commanders of Royal Naval landing craft in the Mediterranean.

"Noah" was Admiral Earl Mountbatten, congratulating the sailors on their kindly task of ferrying to Sicily a circus that had become stranded in Malta. The landing craft carried more than 150 animals, performers, and caravans.

### BRAVE SCHOOLBOY

A 14-year-old schoolboy, Pieter Bester, of the Boksburg (South Africa) English High School, rescued seven horses and five cows which had been encircled by a bush fire. The R.S.P.C.A made a special presentation, handed to him by the mayor of the town in front of the whole school.



### Happy Christmas

A young craftswoman at a London factory with two jolly snowmen she has made for the Christmas trade.

### FIVE YEARS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

From the start of the National Health Service in 1948 until the end of last year, doctors wrote out 1166,332,180 prescriptions—not counting those for people in hospital. The average cost of a prescription last year was just over four shillings. The cost of drugs and dressings supplied by chemists during the five years was £206,577,056.

These are among the impressive facts in the recent Ministry of Health Report, which also reveals that there has been an increase in the recruitment of nurses, though there is still need for more.

In spite of this great development of our Health Service the Minister, Mr. Macleod, says, "There is indeed much to do."



### DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

Giving presents at Christmas is one of the nicest ways of spreading happiness.

When you are making your "list" please remember our 7,000 and more boys and girls. A Postal Order made payable to "Dr. Barnardo's Homes" and sent to 8 Barnardo House, Stepney Causeway, London, E.1, will help to spread a little happiness amongst our family.

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## PLANE WITH A TELL-TALE TAIL



A view showing the unusually long tail projection

Pilots of this version of the Lockheed Neptune call it the "MAD-bird." The letters MAD stand for Magnetic Airborne Detector, the name of the equipment housed in the long tail projection which makes the plane look like a giant wasp.

Not to be confused with radar, the device does its aerial detective work by registering disturbances in the earth's magnetic field, and in the case of the Neptune it will be used to spot submarines lurking beneath the sea. Similar equipment has been used in oil and other mineral exploration. For-

merly the magnetic device was towed far behind the plane, but refinements in its design now permit its incorporation within an aircraft.

Also visible in the picture are the Neptune's unusual powerplants. On the left is one of the two turbo-compound engines, and on the right is one of the two jet pod engines which provide short bursts of additional power when needed.

A forebear of the Neptune was the Truculent Turtle which still holds the world's non-stop distance record of 11,236 miles.

## It happened this week

### DEATH OF DR. JOHNSON

DECEMBER 14, 1784. LONDON—Samuel Johnson died of dropsy yesterday at seven p.m. at his house in Bolt Court. He will be buried in Westminster Abbey.

Johnson preserved an absolute independence of character to the end. Scorning patronage, he publicly reproved Lord Chesterfield who, having ignored the unknown Johnson's plan for his now famous Dictionary, praised it after publication.

Contemptuously dismissing this belated praise, Johnson said: "... had it been early it would have been kind; but it has been delayed until I am indifferent and cannot enjoy it; till I am known and do not want it."

Five editions of the Dictionary were published during Johnson's lifetime. He received £1575 for the copyright.

A few days ago Dr. Johnson begged his great friend Sir Joshua Reynolds to promise to read his Bible and never paint on a Sunday.

### CROMWELL AS LORD PROTECTOR

DECEMBER 16, 1653. LONDON—Wearing a sombre cloak of black velvet, Oliver Cromwell today took over the absolute power which the Commons granted when it voted its own death four days ago.

Seated on the Chair of State which had been placed on a rich carpet in Westminster Hall, Cromwell accepted the proffered office of Lord Protector. After he had taken the oath of fidelity, Commissioners handed to him the Great Seal, while the Lord Mayor of London proffered the Sword of Office. Both were handed back by the Lord Protector.

After receiving obeisance from the many dignitaries present, he then returned to the Palace of Whitehall amid the acclamations of the soldiers. A waiting crowd contented itself with ironically curious glances.

Cromwell was later publicly proclaimed Lord Protector in the Palace Yard, and in the Old Exchange in the City; the Lord Mayor attending in his robes while the Sergeants bore the Mace.

### FRENCH ABOLISH PASSPORTS

DECEMBER 17, 1860. PARIS—The Emperor of France today announced that from January 1 next passports would not be needed to visit France. The announcement, made in agreement with Britain, means that travellers to France will be freely admitted and permitted to travel as they wish about the country.

It has long been known that the Emperor opposed the passport system. Other governments may now abandon this absurd restriction imposed on travel.

Troublesome inquiries at the ports and liability to detention and imprisonment if not in possession of a passport have long vexed English travellers; they particularly resented being placed under police surveillance through registration in every town they visited.

## RADIO AND TV

# SWOT FOR PETER WEST

## Learning the rules of lacrosse

LACROSSE, it seems, is the one game that has no experienced radio commentators. Into the breach has stepped TV cricket commentator Peter West.

This month he has been swotting up the rules and watching as many games as possible in readiness for the TV broadcast next Saturday afternoon of a men's lacrosse match between North and South of England. This first lacrosse game to be televised will be played in Regent's Park, London.

Lacrosse was invented by North American Indians. The French supplied the name when the net stick was shaped like a cross.



Lacrosse players reaching for the ball

### Tutankhamen's trumpet

A SILVER trumpet which belonged to the ancient Egyptian King Tutankhamen will be heard in the BBC Home Service on Saturday afternoon. Rex Keating will be talking about a chain of mishaps when he attempted a live broadcast about Tutankhamen relics at Cairo in 1939. Everything went wrong; even the lights failed at the last moment.

Luckily the sound of Tutankhamen's trumpet was preserved in what is one of the most cherished records in the BBC's library. An American reporter described it as "Tut's Toot."

### Words unnecessary

NOR many films are made without dialogue, commentary, or printed captions, but the BBC has completed just such a film at the Lime Grove studios. It is intended for showing on Eurovision as well as the home screens. Its subject is London, from dawn to midnight.

Richard Causton, who directed the film, tells me that music and sound effects are its only accompaniment. "No commentary is needed," said Causton. "The story can be followed by viewers of any nationality."

It is hoped to include the film in the Christmas television programmes.

### School TV

NOR many present-day Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Formers, I am afraid, are likely to see TV lessons in school. The BBC, though wishing to start a schools service, say this will not be possible until they have their alternative TV programme, probably in three years' time.

An experimental service beginning with secondary schools is the recommendation of the Schools Broadcasting Council. At a recent conference three points were advanced in favour of Schools Television.

Firstly, it can be more topical than film; secondly, it is highly adaptable to new educational methods; thirdly, it can build up programmes in series and so establish confidence and intimacy between studio and pupils.

### In old Londinium

WHAT sort of city was Londinium? BBC Producer Leonard Cottrell will try to give us an impression of a typical day in Roman London in an hour's Home Service feature on December 28.

He tells me that W. F. Grimes, who discovered the Roman Temple of Mithras in the heart of the City, will be among his archaeological friends taking part.

## Televiews of the pantomimes

AT least half-a-dozen pantomimes will be rolled into one in TV's Panto Startime on Saturday evening. On the stage of the Television Theatre viewers will see Norman



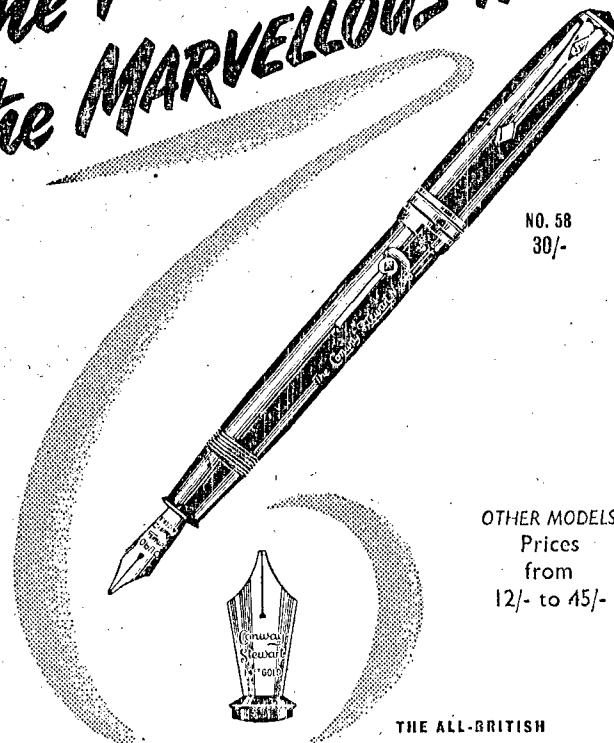
Norman Evans in one of his sketches

Evans and Betty Jumel from Humpty Dumpty at Nottingham; Nat Jackley and Jillian Comber from Aladdin at Leeds; Tessie O'Shea from Robinson Crusoe at Birmingham; and Tommy Cooper from Humpty Dumpty at Dudley.

Other artists will also be making a special visit to town, and Producer Richard Afton has booked a flying ballet.

ERNEST THOMSON

The Pen with the MARVELLOUS Nib!



Conway Stewart

the finest Pens—the Greatest Value



# BEAUTIFUL OTTAWA'S 100th BIRTHDAY

THE centenary of the Canadian capital's life as a city is now being celebrated. It was on December 18, 1854, that Queen Victoria gave assent to a small lumbering community called Bytown being incorporated as a city.

Bytown had got its name from Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers, who constructed the celebrated Rideau Canal. The new city was named Ottawa, after a tribe of Indians who had long lived beside the great River Ottawa.

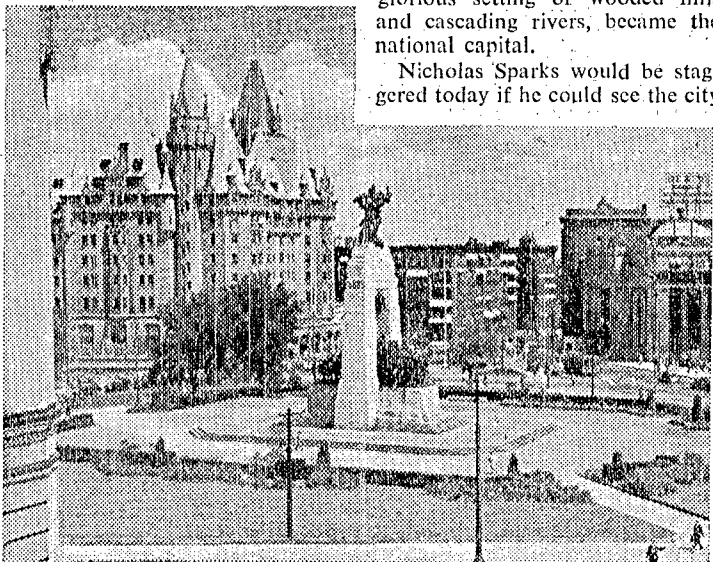
The history of the Canadian capital really goes back about 350 years. Several intrepid European explorers came this way early in the 17th century, while exploring the Ottawa River and its headwaters. One of these pioneers was Samuel de Champlain, the founder of Quebec; he was here as early as 1613. Fur traders followed the trail blazed by Champlain and pushed on to the Great Lakes. In those days there was a beaver colony where Ottawa's railway station now stands!

The first man to settle in this forest-clad junction of three rivers was Philemon Wright. It was he who founded Hull, the city on the north bank of the River Ottawa, facing the capital. He was an Englishman, a loyalist who moved out of Massachusetts into the wilds because he wanted to remain under the British flag after the U.S. had become independent. He and his companions reached this riverside realm of the Ottawas in 1800, and bought land from the ruling Indian chief.

One of Wright's friends, Nicholas Sparks, liked the look of the high banks opposite Hull, and paid 340 dollars for 200 acres which are now in the centre of Ottawa. Today these acres are worth over 100 million dollars!

The new settlers cut timber and floated it down to Quebec, thus starting the lumber trade here.

In 1826 Colonel By made his mark in Canadian history by digging his canal. It was for the defence of Canada against the United States. The idea seems absurd now but at that time there were still hostile feelings between Canadians and Americans, the result of the war of 1812, and the Rideau Canal was designed for taking gunboats from the St. Lawrence to Lake Ontario. No naval vessels used it until 1951, when they came up it for a regatta.



The National War Memorial in the heart of the city



Ottawa's coat of arms

Colonel By's canal-digging went on for over six years, and the locks he made are among the first things to attract the visitor's attention as he leaves Ottawa's Union Station. Boats descend 81 feet to the Ottawa River through these locks. In spite of such extensive engineering works, the canal has been of little importance.

With Colonel By's departure, the little place to which he had given his name grew into a typical booming, brawling, frontier town of the period—vastly different from the



The Peace Tower

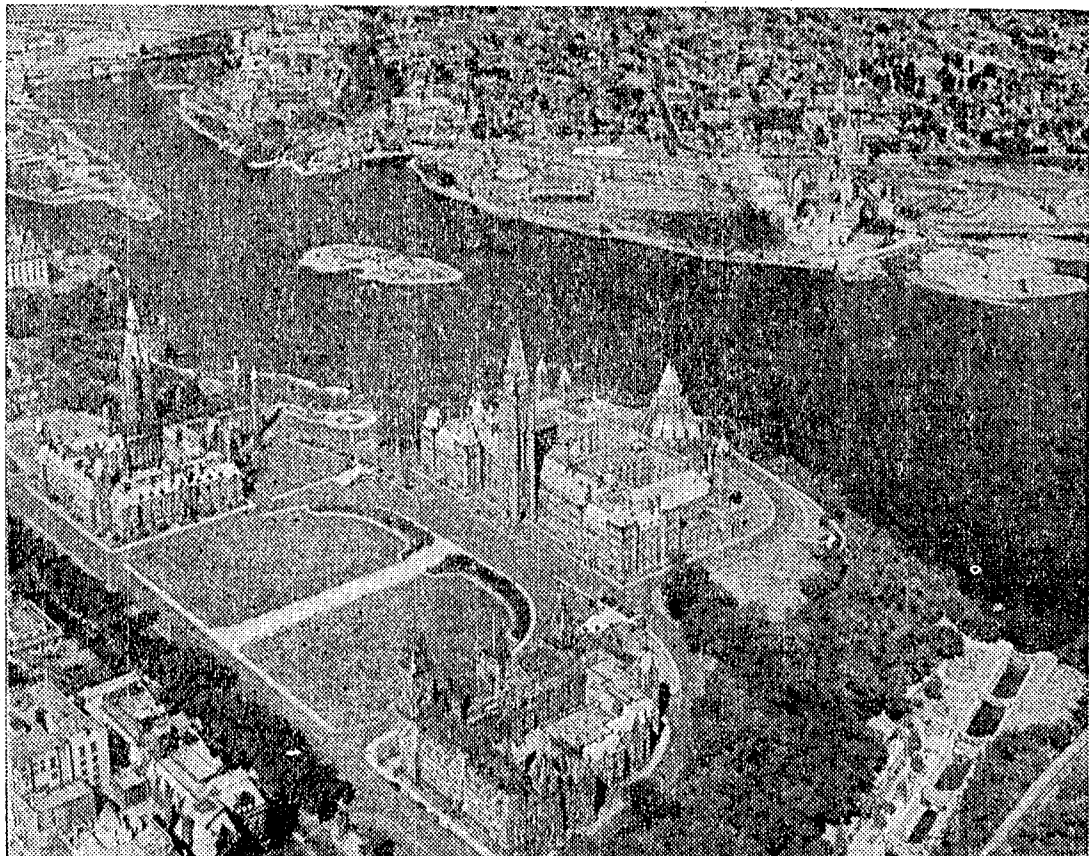
gracious, dignified city that is now the Canadian capital.

In 1854 its name was changed to that of the original Indian inhabitants, and three years later Queen Victoria and her Ministers selected it as the seat of government for the "Province" of Canada. It was a wise choice.

To give the distinction to Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, or Kingston might have provoked fierce rivalries; but no one could object to Bytown turned Ottawa.

In 1867 Canada received Dominion status and Ottawa, in its glorious setting of wooded hills and cascading rivers, became the national capital.

Nicholas Sparks would be staggered today if he could see the city



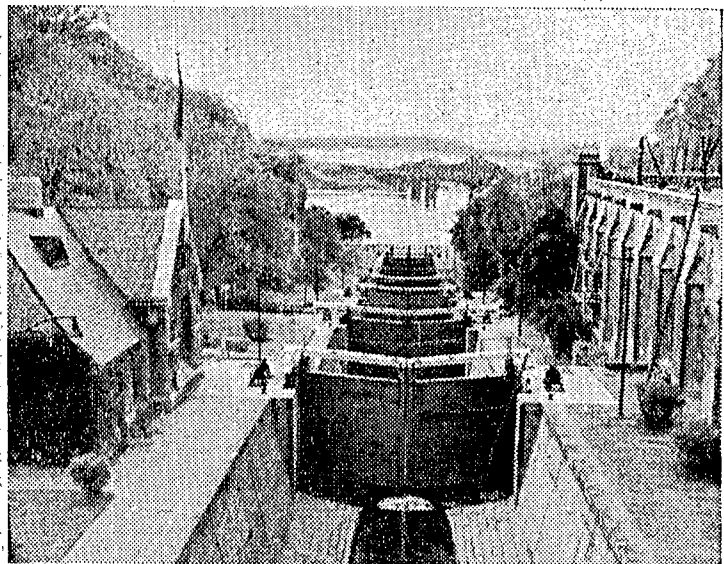
A fine aerial view of Ottawa, showing Parliament Buildings overlooking the mighty Ottawa River. At the bottom right of the picture are the locks of the Rideau Canal

that has grown up round his log cabin on the hill above the river. Now it is the home of more than 200,000 people, and on the site where he once farmed stands the Gothic glory of Canada's Parliament buildings with the lofty Peace Tower soaring in slender elegance before them. This campanile is 283 feet high and contains a carillon of 53 bells, the Dominion's sweetest chorus of bell music.

Nicholas would also stare in amazement at Ottawa's other stately buildings—the Confederation Building, the Supreme Court, the National Museum, the National Art Gallery.

But Ottawa is a city of open spaces as well as noble buildings. Its parks and gardens are ablaze in May with a half a million tulip blooms. It has wide shaded streets, lovely homes, and terraced lawns.

It is a princely, beautiful capital. But Canadians are not yet satisfied with it, and they have an ambitious plan, begun in 1944, for making it more beautiful still. They are determined to invest Ottawa with a majesty in keeping with the greatness of their country.



Locks of the Rideau Canal where it joins the Ottawa River



Statue of Samuel de Champlain



A Spring-time scene in the beautiful capital



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars · London · E C 4  
DECEMBER 18 ..... 1954

## TELLING THE WORLD

ENGLISH is the most widely-used language in the world, says the British Council's annual report. "The sun never sets upon unfortunate schoolboys who are struggling with English examination papers."

Some of them joyfully fling aside their books when they leave school. But thousands grow up wanting to read English books, and the British Council is doing a fine work in supplying them.

How necessary this is can be seen from the case of Japan. When the British Council started its work there, Russian books were plentiful and cheap, but even scientists knew nothing of many modern British achievements.

The Council's value is indicated in the words of Japan's Minister of Education: "Our students want to study your language and literature: it is even more important that they should understand something of your character."

## THREE TASKS

SPEAKING to students at Cardiff University the other day the Duke of Edinburgh mentioned three tasks that he would like every graduate to be able to carry out.

"The first is to work his way round the world on £5. Secondly, run a holiday camp or a boys' club. And third to report or write an editorial in the journal of a learned society about a conference in his particular subject."

The Duke calls for a high standard, but there is no doubt that his three set tasks demand three great essentials for success in life: spirit of adventure, ability to organise and get on with people, and mastery of one's chosen career.



## Under the Editor's Table

PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO  
KNOW

If there are stirring  
sights now in every  
English kitchen

At Princes Risborough the four dials of the market clock show different times. Lots of time on its hands.

## FLYING SAUCER OF LONG AGO

ACCORDING to a 300-year-old letter belonging to Mr. E. W. Lattimore, headmaster of West Haddon School, Northants, a flying saucer was seen over Coventry in 1666, the year of the Great Fire of London. The letter-writer thus describes what he saw over the city:

"A strange matter flew over the city. It was about the thickness of a large bowl and had a long blue tail which wriggled. It was not so high as the tops of the highest steeples . . ."

If, as some people believe, beings from other planets are trying to effect a landing on Earth, they have apparently not made much progress over the past three centuries!

## Britain's biggest family

CHRISTMAS is the Family Season, and a particularly appropriate time for remembering the biggest one in Britain—the 7000 children in Dr. Barnardo's Homes, many of whom have never known the joys of family life.

The knowledge that we have helped to bring them some of the joys of Christmas can make our own festivities all the merrier. All gifts, however small, will be warmly welcomed at Barnardo House, Stepney Causeway, London, E.1.

## Think on These Things

IN the Coronation Service the Bible is described as "the most valuable thing this world affords." This is because the Bible is the Word of God, because through its pages God speaks to us. It tells us what is God's purpose for us, and above all it tells us about Jesus.

Our worship in church is based upon the Bible. We have in our services the reading of the Bible, and the preaching which is based on the contents of the Bible. By going to church each Sunday we come to know our Bible.

And as we come to know the Bible we come to understand what the psalmist meant (Psalm 119. 105) when he said: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

O. R. C.

## JUST AN IDEA

As Voltaire wrote: Shun idleness: it is the rust that attaches itself to the most brilliant metals.

When as a nation shall we have fewer colds? When the population is smaller.

Boys are not always averse to washing, says a teacher. But often it is a case of neck or nothing.

Mysterious noises in the air have been heard in a Buckinghamshire village. And the villagers wonder what is up.

# The Editor's Table

## Crazy fellow in a country lane

A DOVER motorist stopped in a country lane and offered a lift to a young miner.

"No, thanks," said the miner, and added: "You are the third to stop. Drivers look at me as if I'm crazy when I tell them that I'm enjoying a walk and some fresh air."

## The Duke in clay



A Maltese sculptor, Mr. Vincent Apap, modelled this head of the Duke of Edinburgh. A copy is to be auctioned for the Maltese Playing Fields Association.

## Giving thanks for a birthday

SIR LOUIS STERLING, one of the pioneers of the gramophone industry in this country, came from the U.S. to Britain 51 years ago with only £6 in his pocket. He recently celebrated his 75th birthday by giving £200,000 to various charities.

On his 50th birthday, Sir Louis gave away £500,000, and altogether his gifts have amounted to nearly £1,000,000—some two-thirds of all he has ever earned.

Sir Louis said that he made his latest gifts because he was "surprised and pleased" to reach his 75th birthday. This great benefactor has expressed his thankfulness in the finest way possible—by giving birthday presents to good causes.

## Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, December 20, 1924

LONDON'S tube railways are reaching developments that were undreamed of by their founders.

When the new extension in South London from Clapham to Morden is completed next year, it will be possible to travel from Morden to Edgware, 23 miles, but only 14 miles will be underground. Nevertheless, do not let us forget that this 14 miles is the longest railway tunnel in the world.

To make it adequate for the traffic the City part of the line, with its extension to Clapham (the old City and South London), has had to be remade entirely.

## FOR COUNTRYSIDE CHILDREN

LOUD cheers greeted the Minister of Education's recent statement that he proposed a complete reorganisation of schools in country areas.

The Minister, Sir David Eccles, pointed out that boys and girls in some country districts have not been getting the same chances of secondary education as those in the towns.

To deny a person secondary education because he lives in an out-of-the-way place is not only unjust, but against the nation's future interests. This country's survival rests on the skill of its workers. The future workers' skill will depend on the way their minds are being developed at school today.

There could be no sounder investment for Britain than money sunk in building well-equipped schools—for the countryside as well as for the towns.

## Progress—and then?

THE President of the International Bank, Mr. Eugene R. Black, said the other day:

"If we had a magic carpet here this morning to take us around the globe, I think we would be struck by the many evidences of progress.

"We would see tractors working on land that before had known only the bullock, and we would see small factories working where industry had never appeared before. We would see truck roads replacing donkey and camel trails and new farms being cleared along the roads.

"In the mountains we would see streams being harnessed to produce energy; and in the deserts hundreds of miles of pipe bringing natural gas to productive use. Down in the villages we would see grain being milled by machinery, instead of being pounded out by hand, and electric light replacing the old oil lamp."

These, of course, are only examples of material progress. But they should also serve to give us more time in which to work out our proper behaviour towards each other.

## THEY SAY . . .

THE original basis of the road system in Norfolk was that people were neither expected to arrive nor to leave, for if they were born there they were lucky.

Mr. Denys Bullard, M.P. for South-West Norfolk

OF the tens of thousands of words in the English language, too many people are content to make do with 200 or 300.

Nigel Tranter, novelist

THE purpose of physical education is not only to produce Bannisters and Chataways. The test of good school instruction is the extent to which Tom, Dick, and Harry participate later on in physical activity.

J. Henderson Stewart, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for Scotland

IF the world could be convinced of the tremendous potential of atomic energy as a power for peace, its use as a weapon of war would be avoided.

U.S. Senator Bricker

THE good old days are not in the past but in the future.

The Bishop of London, at Westminster City School

CRICKET is a joyous game, and I wish we could restore some of the beauty and grace of the old days. Do not let us turn it into a political or financial undertaking.

Mr. D. J. Knight (former Surrey and England cricketer)

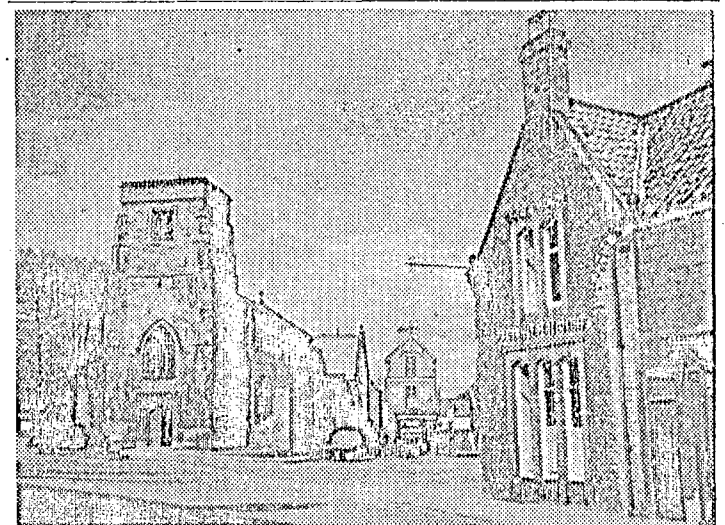
## Out and About

EARLIER in the morning mist a white frost had made the grass look almost as if snow had fallen, and all the tree twigs were silvered. Now a clear spell of sunshine is changing a picture that was described by Washington Irving:

Now Trees their Hats do bare  
To reverence Winter's silver Hair.

True, most of the trees are bare, making the evergreens more noticeable, and already a perky robin sits and sings on an elm branch. Below him is a thick clump of holly, the deep green varnished leaves beginning to gleam in the sun, and the red berries to glow. It is as if Master Robin is asking us to notice them; or is he vain of his red waistcoat?

C. D. D.



OUR HOMELAND

The old church and market place at Malton, Yorkshire



## REPORT ON WILD LIFE

# BUSY TIMES FOR THE BIRD-WATCHERS

EACH month hundreds of "duck-counters" are at work beside lakes or reservoirs or out on the estuary marshes, watching and counting mallard, wigeon, teal, and other kinds of wild ducks through field-glasses or telescopes. December 19 and January 23 are the next two duck-count days.

According to the Wildfowl Trust results of duck-counts in previous winters show that the common wild duck, or mallard, generally reaches its peak population between November and December. Lowest numbers have been found after a wet nesting season and the highest after a dry one. So, after all this year's rain, smaller figures than usual are expected this winter.

In order to make the duck-survey more thorough, it is proposed to compile a register of all the waters in the country, listing their size and peculiarities. Now-

on the Firth of Forth at Rosyth, and a stilt-sandpiper on the Humber at Spurn—have spurred bird-watchers on to look out for more American waders, 18 of which have now been recorded as British visitors.

Wilson's phalarope, named after the great Scottish-born American ornithologist Alexander Wilson, who in 1808 wrote the first history of American birds, is a sort of swimming sandpiper. It is reddish-grey in summer and mainly greyish-white in autumn, when it normally migrates to winter in Chile and Patagonia. The stilt-sandpiper, which nests in the Hudson Bay region, is rather like the lesser yellowshank, another rare visitor, but conspicuously barred upon its breast.

### WHAT THE BIRDS HEAR

A very different study of birds is to find how much more they can hear than we can. In the recent Bird Report of the Merseyside Naturalist's Association, Dr. H. A. Thomas, a research scientist, describes how he fitted twelve electronically-operated ultrasonic generators over the Rankin Porch of Liverpool Cathedral. With these he claims to have proved that birds noticed supersonic sound of 18,000 cycles per second, which is far beyond the human range of hearing.

The bass or sea-perch is a large, silvery-grey fish which visits many estuaries around the British coasts when the weather is not too cold, and it is very common along the Channel coast. Mr. L. A. Jackman, a Devonshire naturalist, has told the Zoological Society of London about recent discoveries in the marine aquarium on Plymouth Hoe and how the egg of the bass develops into a young fish. Despite the abundance of this fish, its eggs had never been found in our estuaries or in the local seas. But little bass from three to fifteen days old have been caught by naturalists when netting plankton off the famous Eddystone light-house.

### FISH THAT SINK

It was found that these eggs hatched four days after being laid. During its early stages the larval or baby fish rests for long periods at the surface of the water, but on its third day begins to sink slowly, and on its sixth day is swimming in the normal horizontal way of grown-up fish.

The first national nature reserve for Wales has been declared by the Nature Conservancy on the mountainous amphitheatre of Cwm Idwal, which lies between Snowdon and Lake Ogwen. It is preserved for such rare mountain flowers as the Snowdon lily (lloydia), the Snowdon pink or moss-campion, alpine and other saxifrages, and the mountain-avens or dryas, which grow chiefly around the Devil's Kitchen, the Gribin, and Glyder Fawr.

Cwm Idwal is also the haunt of wild goats, raven, buzzard, ring-ouzel, and other interesting wild life. E. H.

## Where Nelson played hide and seek

When Princess Margaret visits the West Indies in February she will see on the quayside at English Harbour, Antigua, the old anchor of Nelson's ship, H.M.S. Boreas, which he commanded while stationed there from 1784 to 1787.

In Nelson's Dockyard the Princess will also be shown the capstans which heeled over H.M.S. Boreas when she needed careening (an overhaul of her underwater timbers). Nelson's chief task when he was in Antigua was the suppression of smuggling.

The house where he lived, Admiral's House, has recently been restored after being badly damaged in a hurricane four years ago. This is part of a big restoration scheme at English Harbour, which is 13 miles from St. John's, capital of Antigua, and was a famous naval base until it was abandoned by the Royal Navy in 1889.

### AUTOGRAHS ON THE WALL

There is a story that Nelson made friends in Antigua with a three-year-old boy, the son of a widow named Mrs. Nisbet. One day she found Nelson and the boy playing hide and seek under a table in Government House.

Beyond the dockyard is the large cement water-catchment, with storage tanks beneath, which used to be the dockyard's main water supply. Its low walls have become an enormous autograph album for they are covered with hundreds of names of eighteenth century sailors, including their home towns, the names of their ships and the dates they were stationed in Antigua.

Some of the men who served in H.M.S. Boreas inscribed their names there and these will be seen by Princess Margaret. Nelson's own name has disappeared.

## EMPIRE SPORTSMEN IN BRITAIN



Some of the Australian rowing men who hope to be in next year's Oxford Boat Race crew. They are (left to right): R. D. Carnegie, F. R. Dalrymple, J. G. McLeod, J. A. Gobbo (president), E. V. Vine, and B. H. Lichtenberg.



Six South African footballers who regularly play in the Charlton Athletic teams. They are (left to right): Ron Oosthuizen, John Hewie, Syd O'Linn, Ken Chamberlain, Peter Firmani, and Stuart Leary.

### TOY SOLDIERS ON PARADE

Toy soldiers of the last 100 years will be on parade until January 21 at London's Toy Museum.

The specimens include most known types, and are made of tin, lead, zinc, alloy, plaster, wood carton, and papier-mâché. Most of them were made in Britain, but examples from Germany, France, Japan, China, India, and Sweden are also there.

The Toy Museum is at the Leighton House Art Gallery, 12 Holland Park Road, W.14.

### GREETINGS FROM NORWAY

The Christmas tree given by the people of Oslo to London will be illuminated in Trafalgar Square every evening from December 20 to January 5. Various choirs will sing carols round it from December 20 to January 5, beginning with the 'Norwegian Girls' Choir at seven p.m. next Monday.

### MORE TELEPHONES AND FEWER TELEGRAMS

The Postmaster-General presented a gilt telephone to the Constable of the Tower of London the other day to commemorate the installation of the 2,000,000th telephone in the London area.

Britain now has 6,000,000 telephones and this means that one person in every eight is now "on the phone."

But if the telephone is increasing in popularity, the telegram is on the decline. Forty years ago people sent over ninety million telegrams a year in Britain. Today they send just over half that number and the figure is falling.

Even so, the telegraph service keeps up its reputation of delivering a telegram anywhere in Britain. Not long ago a telegraph delivery boy had the dizzy task of climbing 170 feet of scaffolding to hand a telegram to a workman on the top of Ely Cathedral.

The Post Office will even transmit a telegram to Mars—though it does not guarantee delivery. Some years ago a telegram worded: "Love to Mars from Earth" was handed in at a branch office.

The sender was charged 1s. 6d. a word for his telegram, then the normal rate for a long-distance wireless message. It was duly transmitted from Rugby wireless station; but, alas, a reply was never received.

### THEIR OWN TREES

Children will take special care of the roadside trees to be planted on the Strouden Farm estate of 150 houses at Bourne-mouth.

Some 77 trees are being planted during the Christmas holidays. Wherever possible the youngest child living nearest to a tree will adopt it and promise to help to preserve it. Each tree will have a label bearing the "owner's" name.

Although the children will not prune the trees they will help to water them and clear up the leaves.

### Swimming lesson?



If this isn't Peregrine of TV fame standing on the bank giving advice, it is someone very like him.

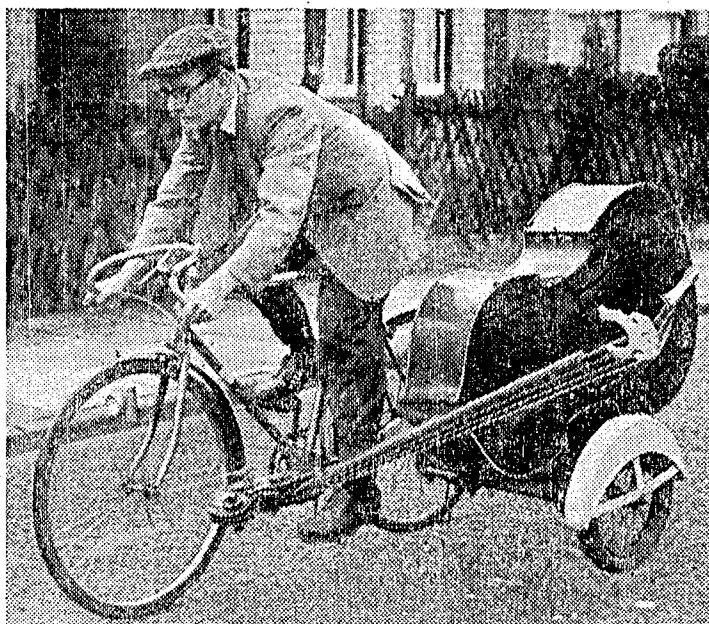
days wildfowling with a pair of binoculars instead of a gun has become almost a national hobby.

This is also the time of the year when you may find wild birds with identity rings on their legs which tell not only their country of origin but their age.

Recently two Norwegian ornithologists reported on the results of 12 years' bird-ringing by Oslo University, in which 11,135 birds were marked. A fieldfare (a large blue-grey thrush) migrated to Belfast. Young herons flew to Nottinghamshire and Norfolk, to Cornwall, Orkney, and Glasgow, as well as to Denmark and Germany. A Norwegian lapwing, or peewit, reached Bath, whereas others went to Spain and Ireland.

You may often wonder how long birds live in the wild. Dr. Holger-son, in summarising the recent bird-ringing results from Stavanger Museum in South Norway, records a little brown and grey wader bird of the seashore, called a dunlin, which was found at Southport 15 years after it was caught, ringed, and released in Norway.

The appearance of two American birds for the first time in Britain in this autumn's migration—a Wilson's phalarope



### Where there's a wheel . . .

Mr. Clive Robinson, a Cheltenham musician, found his double-bass took up rather a lot of room in buses; so he devised this side-car to carry it when going to an engagement.



## SOMERSET IN LONDON

In the New Year, Somerset men and women in London will open a new campaign.

They belong to the Society of Somerset Folk, and are anxious that the dialect and folk-song of their county should not disappear.

The Society, which now has 300 members meeting monthly for lectures and discussions, first began in 1897, when some men from Taunton formed a little club of "Somerset Men in London." It grew quickly, and in 1901 issued its first Annual Report.

It was easier, in those days, writes our correspondent, to stimulate local patriotism. But now many true lovers of Somerset have noted a decline in interest.

Audiences listen politely to talks on their county, enjoy the lantern-slides, and laugh at the quaint and amusing Somerset stories. But they get up and go home when it is over and seldom respond to the invitation to join in further discussion.

### REVIVING OLD MEMORIES

Yet many of these silent ones probably have valuable material of their own to add to the evening's enjoyment—remembrances of old life in the county, quaint, forgotten stories, or songs of the past now fading from memory.

So in 1955 the Society will try to make their more stolid listeners contribute to the warmth and light of their meetings. The famous

*We'm come up from Zummerzet, Where the zider apples grow...* was written in the reign of George V. But the Society of Somerset Folk want to go a long way farther back than that.

### LULLABY FROM FATHER

Who should sing a lullaby to a restless baby—mother or father?

According to a senior psychologist in America's Northwestern University, father should! This is because men's voices are lower and more soothing.

## Steps to Sporting Fame



Often described as The Mighty Atom is little Johnny Hancock, who for seven years has twinkled on the wing for Wolverhampton Wanderers F.C. He stands only 5 feet 4 inches and weighs 9 st. 5 lb.



Hancocks and his captain, Billy Wright, served together in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Both are good cricketers and in an Army match once made a stand of 190. The war over, Johnny started League football with Walsall, but was soon signed on by the Wolves.

## Johnny Hancocks



In Dec. 1948 Hancocks joined Wright in the England team which defeated Switzerland 6-0. Before this match Wright tried a new way with his bootlaces but had some difficulty in knotting them. Hancocks helped him, and this ritual has been performed ever since.



Wee Johnny has played three times for England, never on the losing side, and has helped Wolves to win the F.A. Cup (1949) and the League Championship (1953-4). His feet slide comfortably into size 4 boots, but he has a terrific shot and is one of Soccer's "Penalty Kings."

## SPACE TRAVEL—AND ALL THAT

With all this talk about space travel, Men in the Moon, Martians, Mercurians, and all the rest of it, how much truth can be found as a basis of fact in fiction?

Mr. Patrick Moore, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, answers some of our questions in *Suns, Myths, and Men* (Muller 12s. 6d.).

In popular, easy-to-read language, he puts the whole problem before us. We learn about the origin of astronomy in astrology (a very different thing) and the latest ideas of science as to whether, or not, there can be life on other planets.

Says Mr. Moore, in forthright fashion:

"... the crablike Mercurians of modern stories are scientific impossibilities. All forms of life known to us, from microscopic pond-creatures to elephants and men, are built up because one particular atom, the atom of carbon, has the power to form highly complex atom-groups necessary for living tissue. No atoms other than those of carbon have the ability

to link up in this way, and it follows that all forms of life, whether on Earth or in the depths of the universe, must be basically similar to those in our experience."

He tells us that the only planets where life is a possibility are Mars and Venus. But even Venus does not sound very promising. Scientists, using spectroscopes, have discovered in the lovely evening star's atmosphere, carbon compounds tending to act as blankets.

### RAGING DESERT OF STORMS

They shut in heat, and "it has been inferred that the ground must be at a temperature above that of boiling water—in which case Venus is a raging desert, with titanic storms sweeping across the parched plains, and even the Sun obscured by dense clouds of dust."

Life, however, may be supposed to exist in the depths of space. "Planetary systems are almost certainly quite common in the universe," writes Mr. Moore, "and in these systems there must be many millions of globes so similar to our own that we can safely call them other Earths. We shall

never be able to see them; no matter how we plan and build, no telescopes of ours will ever be able to penetrate the terrifying gulfs of space sufficiently to reveal tiny bodies shining only by light reflected from their masters. But that they exist there can be little doubt; and where conditions are suitable for life, life will develop."

Visiting these cosmic neighbours is almost beyond our comprehension. Mr. Moore suggests that a space ship for such a trip would have to be a kind of celestial Noah's Ark which, obliged to travel at less than the speed of light, would take so long to reach another solar system that only remote descendants of the original adventurers could hope to see the end of the voyage!

Mr. Moore's book is not only concerned with modern astronomy. Briefly and simply he tells us the whole fascinating story of man's curiosity about the mysterious universe, from the time when the ancients thought an eclipse was caused, by dragons to the modern likelihood of space travel.

## YOUNGEST NAVY IN THE EMPIRE

The youngest Navy in the Empire has the longest waiting list of recruits. That is the proud boast of the Royal East Africa Navy, formed officially only four years ago and granted its coveted title by the Queen in 1952.

The R.E.A.N. boasts only 165 ratings, but applications to swell their number flow in regularly from remote kraals and plantations, bush settlements, and fast-growing townships of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika.

From tribes of markedly different customs and characteristics come these "black men in blue." Many may never have seen the ocean before, but they make grand seamen, say their officers.

Mombasa, the old Arab port where vivid tropical foliage makes a background for gleaming new wharves and humming modern warehouses, is the R.E.A.N.'s base. Its largest vessel is the minesweeping trawler *Rosalind*. This can accommodate only 45 ratings, so newcomers must be patient.

### ON FREQUENT CALL

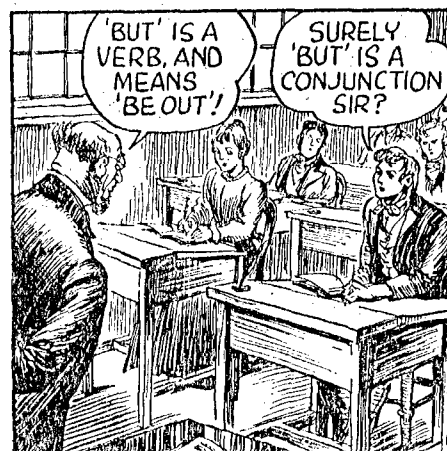
With *Rosalind* and other craft, the Empire's youngest Navy is, apart from rigorous training, on frequent call. A coastal town stricken by hurricanes needs urgent supplies; an old floating mine must be exploded; ivory smugglers are sighted off Kenya's lone northern coast.

Backed by the Royal Navy's centuries-old experience—six R.N. chief petty officers form the instructional staff—the Royal East Africa Navy is keen to prove that, stripping though it be, it can give a fine account of itself whenever the need arises.

### ELEVEN SAILOR GIRLS

Eleven girls of the Battersea Sea Rangers manned their own 80-foot ketch recently on a 300-mile trip from Ramsgate to the Hook of Holland and round the Dutch coast. The girls steered the ketch and kept watch themselves.

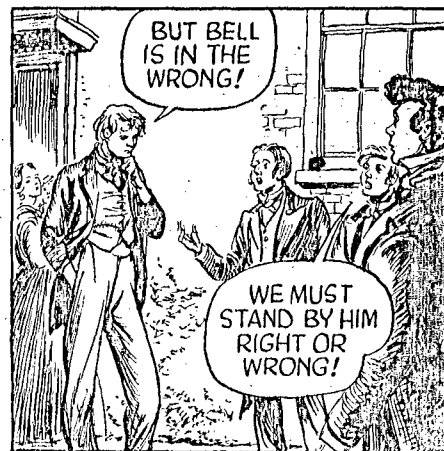
## FROM LOG CABIN TO WHITE HOUSE—new picture-version of the romantic life-story of President Garfield (4)



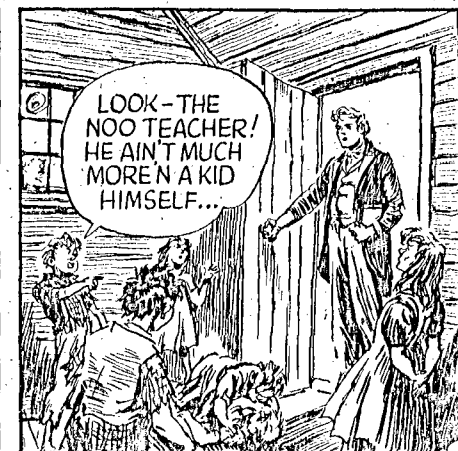
Jimmy was accepted for Geauga Seminary, but he encountered an odd difficulty: the grammar teacher had peculiar ideas, asserting, for example, that "and" was a verb meaning "add." Jimmy had learned Kirkman's grammar book by heart, but this teacher said Kirkman was wrong, like all the other grammarians. "I teach a grammar of my own," he said, "the grammar of common sense."



Jimmy soon left this cranky teacher's class and studied another subject. To earn money to pay his fees and for his lodging in the town, he worked before and after classes every day. He worked on half-holidays as well, denying himself the games of which he was so fond. He lived frugally—chiefly on milk—and when his first term was ended, he took jobs on farms during the holidays, in addition to studying.



Next term at Geauga a youth named Bell was in danger of being expelled for insulting a townsman. Some other students said they would leave too if Bell went, and they asked Jimmy to support them. He said he would if Bell first apologised to the townsman. They disagreed at first, but Jimmy, a born leader, brought them round to his point of view. Bell apologised, and no more was heard of the matter.



In the winter holidays, when there was little farm work, Jimmy sought a job as temporary schoolteacher. He was offered one near his home where the children had the reputation of being a set of young barbarians. They had already driven away two masters. Reluctantly the student teacher accepted the post. He was advised to "lick" the youngsters, but he resolved to run the school without using a cane.

Will young James be able to cope with these rowdy youngsters? See next week's instalment



# THE ISLAND OF THE GODS

by Geoffrey Trease

Holly Blake and John Stevens, with their parents, are looking for an ancient shrine on a Greek island. An earthquake, however, uncovers the shrine on a smaller island near by. The children have just caught sight of its treasures when a voice speaks from behind them.

## 14. Gods of gold

The children swung round together.

"Dirk Lomas!" they cried in unison.

"So you remember my voice?" said the man with a sneer. "Wonderful thing, television!"

It was the voice they remembered but not the face. Gone was the jaunty beard. The dark hair was bleached—but here and there, at the roots, they could see the natural colour coming back. Sunglasses masked the unpleasant eyes which had once looked out at them from the big screen at Lime Grove.

It had been clever of him to pretend that he was a Norwegian who knew no English—and an artist who wanted to keep to himself. By hiring a local fishing-boat, too, he had been able to slit about more freely and to keep his distance when he chose to.

"I'm going to give your father a shout," John muttered to Holly, but before he could move a step Lomas cut in:

"You'll do no such thing. Keep quiet, both of you."

## Desperate situation

It was then that they first saw the automatic in his hand. They looked round desperately. From where they were standing some heaped-up rocks cut off their view of the bigger island.

"Who are you to order us about?" Holly demanded.

"Never mind. I've spent a lot of time and trouble on this operation. If anyone gets in my way now, when I'm just about to collect my winnings—well, it'll be just too bad for them. Man or woman, boy or girl. I can't afford to be sentimental."

"You'll pay for this," said John grimly.

"No. I think the Ancient Greeks will pay—with interest. Get inside there. It's all right," he added, as they hesitated, "I'm coming, too. I just want you to carry things."

With his pistol he motioned them before him and they filed gingerly through the cleft. Lomas clicked on a torch with his other hand. The yellow beam crept round the walls, to rest on stone carvings such as the children had seen in the British Museum. It jerked away impatiently and picked out a cluster of small golden statuettes. It flitted on over lampstands, stools, vases, bowls, and other articles in bronze or pottery.

Dirk Lomas gave a whistle of satisfaction.

"The gold will do me," he chuckled. "The museums are welcome to all the junk. Too risky to try selling it. But gold melts."

"You wouldn't melt these figures?" cried John in horror.

"I certainly would," Lomas laughed.

"You can't get away with this!" cried Holly.

## No Disobeying

"That's just what I can—quite literally—get away with. Now. In my boat. By the merest luck it wasn't smashed or swamped by that tidal wave. I don't mind telling you, my heart was in my mouth." His tone hardened. "But I've no time to waste. Grab hold of those little statues. As many as you can carry. We'll come back for more. Now march!"

There was no disobeying. The children picked up a couple of figures apiece and edged their way out of the shrine. Lomas followed.

"This way," he ordered, "and not a squeak from either of you—or else!"

He waved them forward with his automatic. Fifty yards of uneven walking brought them to a

sheltered cove on the northern side of the islet. There lay the little sailing caique, looking somewhat bruised and battered. In a more open anchorage the tidal wave would have been the finish of her.

As they stowed the golden figures aboard, John wondered desperately what had happened to his mother and the Blakes. They were now probably searching for himself and Holly, imagining them drowned.

It would not occur to them that the children had swum across to Mikros. They would be scouring the beaches of the main island.

"Look lively!" Dirk Lomas ordered harshly.

Four journeys they made, until the shrine seemed almost clear of gold, though it was still well-stored with less valuable objects. The golden statuettes seemed to be of various gods and goddesses—Apollo and Artemis, Athena with her sacred owl, Hermes the messenger, the sea-god with his trident...

## Dashed hopes

Lomas shepherded them back for one last trip.

"Try to let him go in first," John mumbled out of the corner of his mouth.

He dared not tell Holly more of the desperate plan which was forming in his mind. That leaning marble pillar in the shape of a Greek maiden. It was not so huge, yet it was big enough and heavy enough to block the entrance to the shrine. And it looked unsteady, as though one good push, even from a school-boy, would send it toppling in the right direction.

It was almost as though Lomas read his thoughts. At all events, this time he made no move to enter the shrine himself. The children had to go in alone for the last of the figures.

"Put 'em down," the man ordered. "Now just go back and make sure that's the lot."

"There aren't any more—not gold—!" began Holly.

"I said make sure."

## Foiled

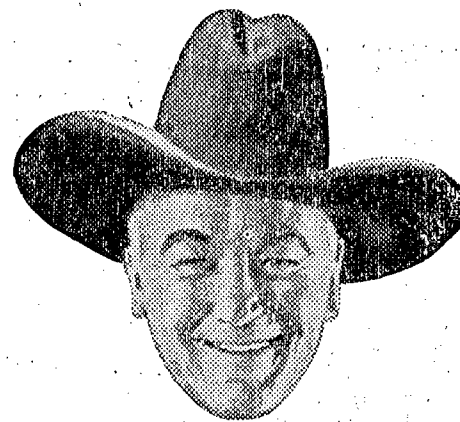
There was no sense in arguing. The children went into the shrine, grumbling.

"Stay just there," Lomas told them. "Don't move. I want a few hours' start in this boat of mine. But you needn't be scared. Your fond parents will find you before tonight. And you can tell the world any story you like." He laughed. "There's no evidence, you see. No evidence that Dirk Lomas was ever on Theonesos in his life! As for Alvig the artist—well, he was drowned when his boat disappeared, on the day of the earthquake! It's all worked out even better than I'd expected."

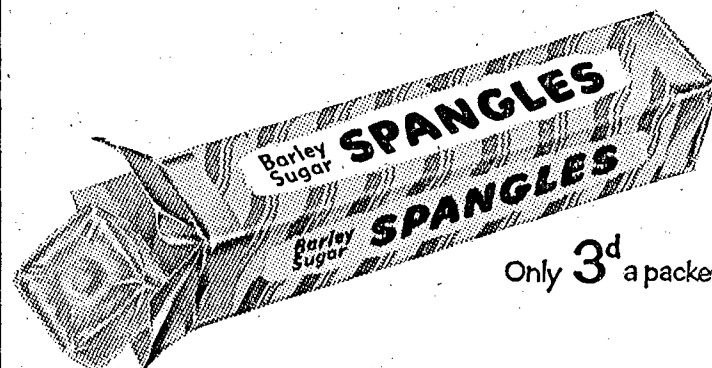
As he uttered the last words, it was clear from his voice that he was straining to push over the pillar with his one free hand.

"Has it?" snarled a fierce voice.

It was not at all like the voice of the Mr. Blake they were used to. But it is not every day that an anxious father comes up behind a man who is trying to shut up his only daughter in a rock-buried prison.



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## WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Shellac

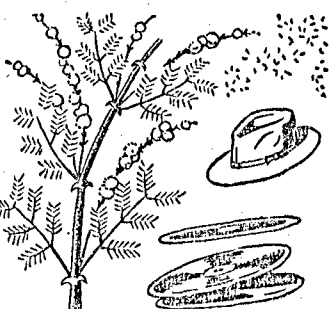
ONE of the most widely used resins in industry, shellac depends on insects for its production.

These small insects feed on certain Indian acacia trees and in the process produce a thin covering of amber-like material which is the basis of shellac.

The substance goes through various stages before reaching its final flaky form, being washed, filtered, and strained through cotton bags on to hot plates.

Over half the output of shellac is used by the manufacturers of gramophone re-

cords. Other industrial purposes are: as a stiffening substance for felt hats, as an electrical insulating material, and as a preservative for wood and metal.



## PARENTS!

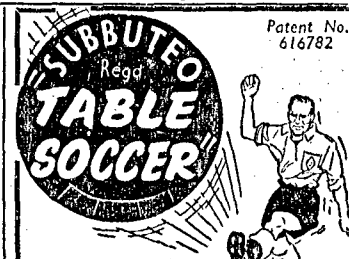
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**NO DEPOSIT**

# SPORTS SHORTS

TEST Match excitement will be in the air again this weekend, when England and Australia meet for the second time in this series, at Sydney. Thirty-three Test Matches have been played at this famous ground, of which Australia have won 19 and England 14.

AUSTRALIA will also have the attention of lawn tennis enthusiasts on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, for the inter-zone final of the Davis Cup will be played between Sweden and America, in Brisbane. The winners will challenge the holders, Australia, at Sydney immediately after Christmas.

LAST month at Brussels more than 2000 runners lined up for the annual Popular Cross-country Race. They included established athletes, juniors, schoolboys, and "unknown" runners. All those who finished received a medal.

JOHN MITTEN, 13-year-old son of Charles Mitten, the Fulham footballer, is determined to become a famous left-winger like his father. John is a member of the Surbiton and Kingston Schools representative team. He was also a keen boxer and has played cricket for Surrey County Schools, but he is now concentrating on Soccer.

ANOTHER popular Fulham footballer, Joe Baccuzzi, also has a 13-year-old son who is showing promise on the Soccer field. Rino Baccuzzi, of St. Aloysius College, Islington, has already played for his district schools representative team. His father also played for Islington Schools as a boy.

## THE ISLAND OF THE GODS

Continued from page 9

There was the sound of a brief struggle in the entrance to the shrine. The pistol went off with a bang, and a bullet screamed its track across the limestone. Then there was quiet.

Holly and John rushed out into the sunshine. Dirk Lomas, winded and helpless, was being trussed up with belts and scarves. John's mother ran to meet him.

"Darling! Are you both quite safe?"

"Rather! But, mummy—" He stared at her slacks, then at Mrs. Blake's crisp summer dress. "How did you get across?" "You're not wet!"

"We walked," said Mr. Blake, rising from his knees, now satisfied that their prisoner was well under control.

"You walked?"

"I'll show you." Mr. Blake drew the children to a point from which they could see Theonesos, with the lions and the cypresses. But now a rugged causeway bridged the narrow strait. It was possible to walk dry-shod from the bigger island to the smaller. The earthquake had thrown up the isthmus which must have been there more than 2000 years before, until an earthquake caused it to sink below the sea.

"You see," John's mother ex-

plained to millions of television viewers a week or two later, "we had been looking in the wrong direction all the time. The first earthquake, in ancient times, broke the island in two. The bit we really wanted was Mikros—Mikros had become the real 'island of the gods.' That's where we're now digging up all the temples and their various treasures. They were approached by a long processional way across the isthmus—there are paving-blocks right across this causeway which the recent earthquake has pushed out above the water again. We started our dig at the Theonesos end, and, of course, we couldn't understand why our first lions seemed to be facing the wrong way."

"I think, Dr. Stevens," said the interviewer with a smile, "you had some young helpers?"

"Oh, yes, indeed—"

And the television camera swung, past Mr. and Mrs. Blake and the golden statuettes gleaming on the table, to the shy, proud faces of Holly and John, smiling into a million English homes.

Of Dirk Lomas there was no mention. He had been set free, with a stern warning to turn to a more honest means of livelihood.

THE END

SCHOOLBOY Jennings of radio fame will be back in the CN next week in a grand new serial



The table-tennis twins, Rosalind and Diane Rowe of Greenford in Middlesex are World Doubles Champions. Here they are with the Victor Barna Cup awarded for outstanding achievement in table tennis.

IN a cricket match in South Africa, Jossel Newton scored 66 runs in 14 balls. In six balls of one over he hit 28 runs, and in the next over, containing eight balls, he hit 38 runs.

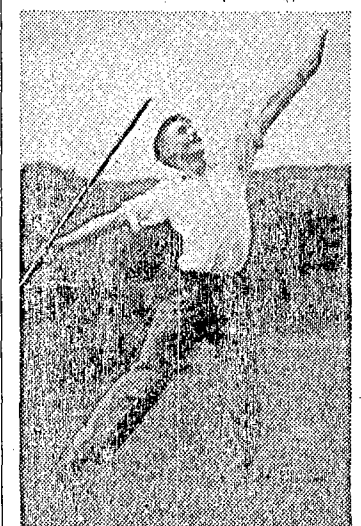
SINCE he joined Tottenham Hotspur F.C. 17 years ago, goalkeeper Ted Ditchburn had, until recently, never played in the reserves. Apart from the war years he had been out of the League side only seven times—through injury or illness.

PAT SYMONDS has been awarded the T. M. Yeadon Memorial Trophy as the 1954 Swimmer of the Year. Pat, 19-year-old Newcastle fashion student, was second in the women's backstroke at the Empire Games, third in the European Championships, and won the National Championship. These successes were achieved despite the fact that she cannot run owing to a foot injury, and has not enjoyed the best of health during the past season. Ann Long, of Ilford, is the 1954 winner of the George Hearn Trophy as the best English diver.

A PASSENGER on an electric tram-car near Wellington, New Zealand, caught a cricket ball which a batsman in a park had hit clean over the fence. He held the ball until the tramcar reached the city ten minutes later. Meanwhile the cricketers declared it "lost ball."

NEWS comes from Australia of an outstanding 18-year-old schoolboy high-jumper. At the Queensland Public Schools Championship, Charles Porter cleared six feet six inches, three inches more than his own height.

A SWEDISH athletic rule demands that at least three runners must start in an event if a record is to be attempted. So when Thomas Nilsson, a Swedish runner, made a successful attempt on the 15 and 25 kilometres national records his club chairman and an ex-Marathon runner took off their jackets and started with him.



CN reader Anthony Jarrold of Winchelsea. One of his achievements in winning the Champion Boy Athlete's Cup at Rye Modern School was a javelin throw of 116½ feet.

THE Soccer team of Thatcham Boys' Club, Berks, playing against Newbury Boys' Club, scored 43 goals! Every player scored, including the goalkeeper.

IN a cricket match at Palmerston North, New Zealand, a bowler named P. Kendall took six wickets with six consecutive balls. The batting side scored only 12 runs.

FOUNDED two years ago as a private venture at six schools, the Golf Foundation is now organising the teaching of golf to about 6000 boys and girls at 200 schools.



## THE FIRST PIN MONEY

One of the City of London's ancient livery companies, the Haberdashers, are to have a fine new hall—their third on the same site in Staining Lane. The Lord Mayor recently laid the foundation stone.

The first, built in the 15th century, was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. The second, designed by Wren, was destroyed by bombs in 1940.

It was the Haberdashers who introduced pins into England from abroad. Before the pins came English women had only been able to use thorns or whittled sticks.

But the imported pins were so dear, that husbands had to give their wives a special allowance—hence the expression “pin money,” still in use today.

## COLLECTOR OF BEETLES

A naval surgeon who devoted the last 30 years of his life to studying rove beetles has bequeathed his great collection of 35,000 specimens to the British Museum of Natural History. He was Surgeon-Commander Malcolm Cameron, the world authority on beetles of this kind.

He wrote more than 150 papers about the rove beetle for entomological journals, as well as five books, and his work will serve as a guide to all future students. Probably the best-known British rove beetle is the “devil's coach-horse,” which often scuttles out when you move a rock or stone in the garden.

## CN Competition No. 18

# £1 NOTES TO BE WON!

POCKET-MONEY is always welcome—and never more so, perhaps, than after buying Christmas presents. Here, then, is the opportunity to win a One Pound Note early in the New Year. There are ten to be won by the boys and girls who send in the best entries to this week's simple competition.

In our illustration below, a Christmas tree is being decorated with patterned globes. All you are asked to do is say which of the globes in the picture are different in pattern from all the others. When you have decided, write your answer clearly on a postcard thus: “Globes numbered ..... have patterns differing from all the rest” (filling in the globe numbers in place of the dotted line, of course).

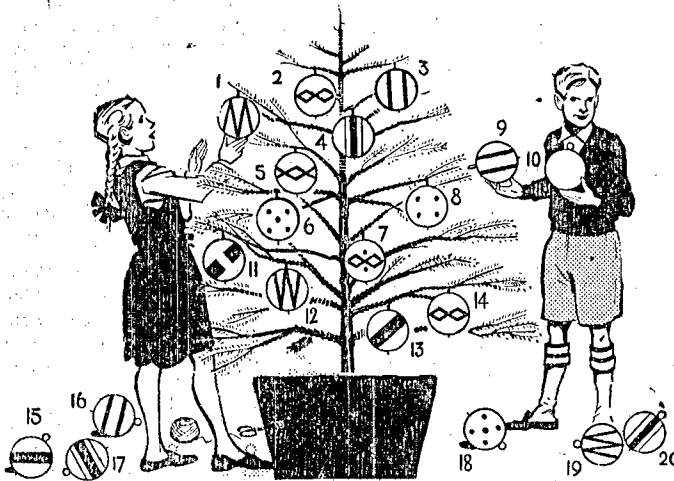
Add your full name, age, and address, and ask a parent or guardian to sign the entry as your own unaided work. Attach to it the competition token (marked C N Token) from the back page of this issue, then post to:

C N Competition No. 18,

3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.),

to arrive by Tuesday, December 28; the closing date.

The money prizes will be awarded for the ten entries which are correct, or most nearly so, and the best written according to age. The competition is open to all readers under 17, living in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands. The Editor's decision is final.



## LOOKING AT THE SKY

# VENUS AND SATURN AS “MORNING STARS”

THE planet Venus is now at its greatest brilliance as a “Morning Star” and can be seen in the south-east sky shining like a beautiful celestial lamp after about five a.m. The planet Saturn will also be seen like a first-magnitude star a little way to the right of Venus.

There can be no mistaking this pair, but for only a few days will these two worlds appear so near together, for Venus is speeding away to the left and will eventually leave Saturn behind.

It is not difficult to imagine that Venus was the “star in the East” which the Wise Men saw, even though there exist somewhat different explanations of St. Matthew's narrative. The Wise Men, in any case, came from the east and travelled to the west to reach Bethlehem.

## 22 MILES A SECOND

If the position of Venus be noted relative to a tree or chimney its apparent path towards the west can be followed far into the morning almost to midday.

Venus is now receding from us; at present it is about 38 million miles distant, whereas a month ago, when at its nearest, it was only 25½ million miles away. The planet is travelling at about 22 miles a second; whereas Earth, though just now speeding at

its fastest, is doing only 18½ miles a second.

The rapid receding of Venus makes a lot of difference to the planet's appearance when seen through an astronomical telescope. At the moment even a small one of only two-inch aperture will show Venus as it appears in the accompanying diagram, but, of course, inverted by the telescope. But this crescent will be seen to widen gradually and Venus will appear smaller, so that in only a few weeks it will look like the



The present appearance of Venus and Saturn

Moon at Last Quarter phase and with only about half the diameter shown in the diagram.

Saturn, on the other hand, is approaching us. At present it is almost at its greatest distance away—about 883 million miles. This tremendous difference in distance accounts for Saturn appearing so much smaller than Venus when viewed at present through a telescope. The sphere of Saturn alone has a diameter about ten times greater than that of Venus—75,100 miles as against 7600 miles.

It can be seen from the diagram that Saturn is by far the most interesting world. It is situated in the midst of its encircling rings, and more powerful telescopes will reveal the nine moons revolving round the rings, and a singular so-called crêpe ring. One moon only, Titan, may be glimpsed through the smaller instruments. G. F. M.

## TRAIN-NAMING

South Africans are fond of giving their trains nicknames, according to the Railways and Harbours' Magazine. How apt some of them are can be seen from these examples:

Cider Special runs between Port Elizabeth and the apple-growing district of Longkloof; Bread and Butter Special carries working people; Skilpad (Tortoise) is a slow train; Taxi Special runs frequently; Green Mamba is a very fast train; and White Elephant is often empty.

The famed Orange Express has a second but more popular name—Marmalade Express!

## PROBLEMS OF THE VENICE OF THE NORTH

Stockholm, the lovely capital city of Sweden, will have a population of 1,300,000 by 1970, experts have recently estimated. In 1870 the population was 136,000.

The new suburbs springing up have caused many planning problems, for Stockholm—often called The Venice of the North—is situated on land with long water-fronts and on islands.



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## THE BRAN TUB

### SAMMY SIMPLE

"How do you like your new teacher, Sammy?" asked Mother.

"Oh, she's all right, but she's a bit fussy."

"Fussy?"

"Yes. She will only let us spell words one way."

### A-SAILING NO MORE

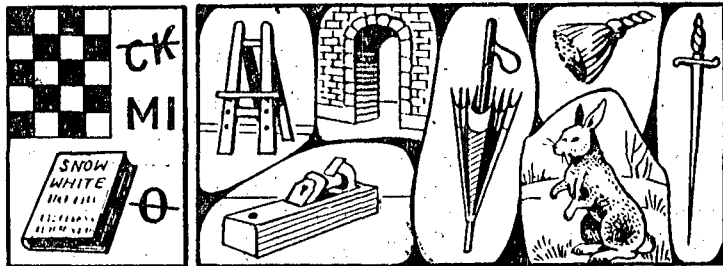
GROANED a sea-sick young man from Manilla

As he draped himself over the tiller:

"If once I gain shore,  
I'll go sailing no more,  
For I've certainly never felt iller."

### CAN YOU SOLVE THIS PICTURE-PUZZLE?

The first picture will tell you the name of a science. Initial letters of the other objects will, when re-arranged in the correct order, give you the name of a person famous in the science.



Answer in column 5

### MISUNDERSTANDING

MR. JONES had not been feeling his usual healthy self so he went to the doctor for a check-up.

"There's nothing much wrong with you," said the doctor. "Exercise will kill any germs you've got."

Mr. Jones looking puzzled said: "How shall I get them to exercise?"

### SANTA'S CHRISTMAS TREE

IN a secret valley, far across the sea, Santa Claus has planted a magic Christmas tree. On its slender branches grow all kind of toys Which will be delivered to lucky girls and boys.

Teddy bears and dollies, clock-work mice and trains, Animals and soldiers, ships and aeroplanes.

Speedboats, guns, and spacesuits, picture books and bricks, Games, and pretty boxes filled with conjuring tricks.

Merry gnomes and pixies help to pile the sleigh, With the gifts which Santa Claus brings on Christmas Day.

### SOCCERGRAM

In the following paragraph, the words printed in italic letters can be rearranged to form the name of a popular Welsh football club.

THE thatched cottage in its neat garden was a picturesque sight at any time. Mantled with snow, it resembled a scene from Fairyland.

Answer in column 5

### HOW

... many peas are there in a pint?

210

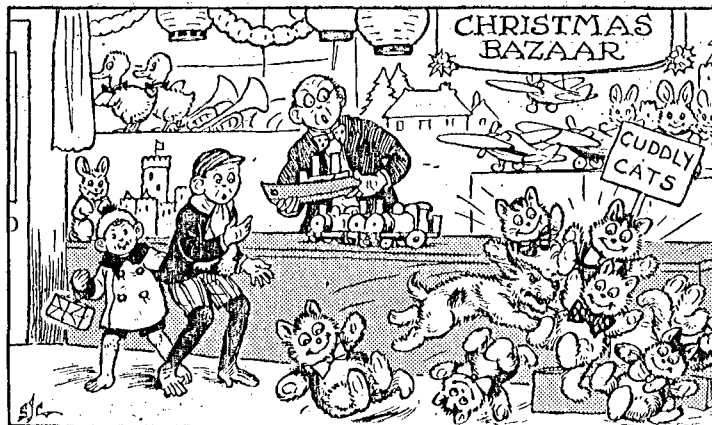
### JUST A B C

A AND B two letters are,  
And next comes C which stands for car.  
After that comes dainty D,  
And E and F and great big G.  
H and I and fancy J  
All come before the letter K.  
Next, come three letters, L, M, N,  
Three really jolly gentlemen.  
Next come O and pretty P,  
Then Q and R and S and T  
U, V, W are then said  
Before we get to X, Y, Z.

### UNRAVEL THIS

TWO little girls who intended to become Brownies told their mother that they had not yet unravelled.

### JACKO WISHED HE HAD LEFT BOUNCER AT HOME



Bouncer took little interest in Jacko's Christmas shopping—until he caught sight of some cats in the corner grinning at him. Back went his ears and he sprang into their midst. And when they made no attempt to run away but just went on grinning at him he grew even angrier—but not nearly as angry as the shopkeeper! Jacko hastily grabbed Bouncer and beat a retreat.

### FIND THE FILM

ADD one letter to each of the following words in the same position each time to make five-letter words. The added letters, in order, will spell the name of a very popular and amusing film. What is it?

TIER, DRAM, PEAL, SPAR,  
LEER, PANS, GUST, SEEN  
SWAT.

Answer in column 5

### SPOT THE . . .

fox with his reddish-brown coat, pricked ears tipped with black, and bushy white-tipped brush.

Many are the stories told of Reynard's cunning. Some are true, others grossly exaggerated. Certainly he needs a deal of craft if he is to survive, for the hand of



man is against him—hardly surprising considering the havoc he wreaks among poultry and young lambs. But he does some service to the farmer for he eagerly devours rabbits, rats, mice, voles, and grubs as well.

At night during January the dog fox barks and the vixen answers with a hideous, blood curdling scream—a cry which will startle anyone hearing it for the first time. At other seasons the fox is a creature of solitary habits.

### ALPHABET PUZZLE

The answers to the following clues all begin with the letter J.

Who was the American general nicknamed Stonewall?

A large wild spotted cat native to America

Name of one of the Channel Islands

Who was King of Scotland from 1394 to 1437?

What do we call the country of Nippon?

These will sting you if you tread on them at the seaside

Answer in column 5

### CAPITOL FLAGS

So great is the demand for flags which have flown above the Capitol, the seat of Congress in Washington, that the Capitol police are sometimes engaged on nothing else all day but running up flags.

They allow them to flutter in the breeze for a few minutes then haul them down again in order to run up another flag. Nevertheless, a few minutes is enough time for the recipient of the flag, to proudly say: "This flag has flown above the Capitol."

### OUT OF PLACE

WHICH of these items is out of place?

Star, sun, moon, planet, cloud, comet.

Cloud, the others all being heavenly bodies

### MISTAKEN DIPLOMACY

"WHY are you crying, Jennifer?" Jack asked his sister.

"Your dog ate the cake I made this morning."

"Don't worry. He'll get over it all right."

### BRAN TUB ANSWERS

Picture-Puzzle. Chemistry: Pasteur

Soccergram. Swansea Town

Find the Film. Genevieve (tiGer, drEam, peNal, spEar, leVer, pAnIs, guEst, seVen, swEat)

Alphabet Puzzle. Jackson, jaguar, Jersey, James I, Japan, jelly-fish

### LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

B	A	N	E	S	I	D
O	R	E	C	T	E	D
I	T	E	A	R	N	E
L	O	T	T	A	L	O
P	L	A	P	A	T	
F	I	E	N	D	R	E
A	N	G	O	A	D	U
D	E	P	L	E	T	E
E	D	G	E	R	O	S

## Find my letters

Remember me? I'm Sir Kreemy Knut, the mascot of Sharps Toffee. I've got a little puzzle for you—when you've solved it try it on your friends. Using the clues I've given you, try to make a word by substituting a letter for each of these figures:—

1	2	3	4	5	6

- 2 3 4 means away  
4 5 6 is what you're paid for doing a job  
2 4 1 means frequently  
3 6 1 5 describes a gala, with flags and all  
1 2 4 3 might almost describe me!  
1 2 3 4 5 6 tastes good—and has a lot to do with me

Turn this page upside-down to find the answer.



the word for toffee



EDWARD SHARP & SONS LTD, "The Toffee Specialists" MAIDSTONE, KENT

The word formed by the figures is TOFFEE—and as far as I'm concerned, that means Sharps Super-Kreem Toffees—the most delicious of coffees you've ever tasted.